Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00434 070851Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W
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R 061611Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6887
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NUJOMA INTERVIEW ON SABC

REF: CAPE TOWN 0375

1. SABC TV MARCH 5, CARRIED A LONGER VERSION OF ITS NEW YORK INTERVIEW WITH SAM NUJOMA. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF THE RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS LEADING UP TO NUJOMA'S REMARKS REJECTING "MAJORITY RULE." NUJOMA'S STATEMENTS CONTINUE TO ELICIT A GREAT DEAL OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND COMMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA. FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA REPORTEDLY COMMENTED TO THE AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER "DIE BURGER" FOLLOWING THE LATEST BROADCAST THAT "THE WESTERN SILENCE ABOUT THIS (NUJOMA'S REMARKS) EMPHASIZES THAT THEY ARE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00434 070851Z

EXTREMELY EMBARRASSED. THE WESTERN COUNTRIES GENERALLY STRESSED TO US THAT THEY WANTED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA QUESTION. MR. NUJOMA HAS NOW GIVEN THEM HIS ANSWER IN VERY CLEAR LANGUAGE..... THE FACT IS THAT NOTHING CAN CANCEL WHAT MR. NUJOMA SAID. THE WESTERN SILENCE IS AN INDICATION OF THE "PANGS OF CONSCIENCE THEY ARE EXPERIENCING". BOTHA'S COMMENTS APPEARED AS LEAD STORY IN "DIE BURGER" ON MARCH 6 UNDER THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

HEADLINE "SAM NUJOMA TORTURES WEST'S CONSCIENCE."

2. BEGIN EXCERPT FROM INTERVIEW BY SABC COMMENTATOR CLIFF SAUNDERS:
SAUNDERS: ARE YOU NOT AFRAID OF BEING LEFT OUT IN THE COLD WITH PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS? AFTER ALL, IF SOUTH WEST AFRICA BECOMES INDEPENDENT, IF BLACK MAJORITY RULE IS INTRODUCED, IF DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES ARE REMOVED (WHICH I THINK YOU MUST ADMIT IS HAPPENING), WHY SHOULD YOUR GUERRILLAS REMAIN OUT IN THE BUSH? AFTER ALL, THERE'S NO DISCRIMINATION,THERE'S BLACK MAJORITY RULE.
IT'S PRECISELY WHAT THEY WANT, WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR.

NUJOMA: WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AS SUCH. RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS ONE ASPECT OF THE ENTIRE COLONIAL REPRESSIVE MACHINERY OF THE FACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH SWAPO IS FIGHTING TO UPROOT AND THROW IT OVER THE, BEYOND THE NAMIBIAN BORDERS.... BACK INTO SOUTH AFRICA. AS TO THE QUESTION OF SWAPO TO STOP FIGHTING BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN A MINOR CHANGE IN THE REPRESSIVE LAWS, WE ARE NOT FIGHTING FOR A REFORM IN THE COLONIAL SYSTEM, BUT WE ARE FIGHTING TO LIQUIDATE THE ENTIRE COLONIAL SYSTEM AND ACHIEVE GENUINE LIBERATION.

SAUNDERS: YES, BUT ONCE THERE IS BLACK MAJORITY RULE, THERE'S BLACK MAJORITY RULE. IS THAT NOT SO? WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

NUJOMA: THE QUESTION OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE IS OUT. WE ARE NOT FIGHTING EVEN FOR MAJORITY RULE. WE ARE FIGHTING TO SEIZE
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POWER IN NAMIBIA, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE.
WE ARE REVOLUTIONARIES. WE ARE NOT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES.
YOU CAN TALK TO KAPUOO, KERINA AND ALL THOSE REACTIONARIES ABOUT MAJORITY RULE AND NOT TO SWAPO.
END TEXT.
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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